



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

**County of Los Angeles**  
**Sheriff's Department Headquarters**  
**4700 Ramona Boulevard**  
**Monterey Park, California 91754-2159**



September 21, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RELATED TO METHICILLIN  
RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA)**

This document is to respond to your request for information related to Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). On September 7, 2004, the Board directed the Sheriff's Department to work with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to identify a funding source for a Physician Specialist Epidemiology, three Public Health Nurses, and an Operations Assistant. Additionally, the Board requested predetermined goals and a detailed description of their specific roles.

As previously reported, the estimated cost of this program, designed to help combat and control the existence of MRSA within Sheriff's Department jail facilities, is \$619,004. This includes \$519,004 in personnel costs and \$100,000 in supplies, equipment, and start-up costs (see attachments). The CAO will separately address the issue of an identifiable funding source.

Physician Specialist Epidemiology

The Epidemiologist will become a member the Medical Services Bureau's existing Communicable Disease Program with primary responsibility for the ongoing development and management of the MRSA treatment program. This physician's responsibilities will include:

*A Tradition of Service*

- Research, develop, and define updated treatment regimens and programs.
- Review available MRSA data and conduct trend analysis.
- Serve as a direct liaison to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, state and national centers for disease control, and other correctional systems throughout the country experiencing issues with MRSA.
- Actively participate in the existing Quality Assurance Program to ensure medical staff are in compliance with established diagnostic and treatment protocols.
- Conduct reviews of reported cases.
- Assist in developing training programs related to MRSA and other skin infections.
- Monitor employee exposure to MRSA.
- Provide direct patient care when necessary.

#### Public Health Nurses (3)

The three Public Health Nurses will each be assigned primary areas of responsibility.

- 1) Men's Central Jail and Century Regional Detention Facility.
- 2) Twin Towers Correctional Facility and Inmate Reception Center.
- 3) Pitchess Detention Center and the Mira Loma Detention Center.

These nurses will serve as immediate staff to the Physician Epidemiologist. Their duties will include:

- Collect and analyze data on monthly MRSA cases within the jail system.
- Develop and present trend analysis data.

- Develop and present educational information to the inmate population and custody staff.
- Assist in developing training programs related to MRSA and other skin infections.
- Coordinate and implement specialized wound care.
- Liaison with custody staff regarding inmate hygiene and cleanliness issues.
- Initiate proactive surveillance of potential or suspected infection amplifiers.
- Assist in the Quality Assurance process.
- Provide direct patient care as necessary.

#### Operations Assistant

The Operations Assistant will serve as immediate staff to the Epidemiologist and Public Health Nurses by providing direct administrative office support. Duties will include:

- Correlate and tabulate MRSA data and statistics.
- Prepare monthly reports and correspondence.
- Coordinate and schedule activities between the Sheriff's Department, Department of Health Services, and other involved agencies.
- Serve as adjunct staff to the Sheriff's Department/Department of Health Services MRSA Task Force.
- Other specialized duties as directed by the Epidemiologist and nurses.

The Sheriff's Department sincerely believes the addition of these personnel assets will greatly enhance our ability to combat and control MRSA within the Los Angeles County jail facilities. A significant number of prisoners entering our system are already either colonized or infected. As such, the short-term goals include maintaining MRSA cases

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
September 21, 2004  
Page 4

at a manageable level, while achieving a long-term overall reduction in the number of infections. Through diligent, proactive research and data analysis, we will strive to remain ahead of the curve on any new emerging resistant staph infections within the community-at-large.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any additional questions or concerns, you may contact Chief Charles M. Jackson of Correctional Services Division, at (213) 893-5017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LEROY D. BACA  
SHERIFF

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DIVISION  
MEDICAL SERVICES BUREAU

MRSA TREATMENT AND MONITORING TEAM COST ANALYSIS

SALARY AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

PERSONNEL TITLES	ITEM NUMBER	BUDGETED ITEMS	MONTHLY SALARY	TOTAL SALARIES	EMP. BEN. 39.800%	TOTAL COST
Physician Specialist, MD	C547RF	1	11,704.00	140,448.00	55,898.30	196,346.30
Public Health Nurse	C5230A	3	5,320.00	191,520.00	76,224.96	267,744.96
Operations Assistant 1	C1228A	1	3,273.27	39,279.24	15,633.14	54,912.38
<b>SALARY AND EMP. BENEFITS</b>						<b>\$519,003.64</b>
<b>SERVICES AND SUPPLIES</b>						
<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>						
Office Supplies					50,000.00	
Equipment Maintenance					50,000.00	
<b>SERVICES AND SUPPLIES COSTS</b>						<b>\$100,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COST</b>						<b>\$619,003.64</b>

Prepared by: Samuel G. Tan, OAlII

Data Sources:

Cost Accounting Unit

**Miscellaneous Equipment Costs for the Medical Services Bureau  
Epidemiology Unit**

<b>EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COST</b>
Modular furniture for five workstations with data and telephone ports	\$18,000
5 Computer workstations	\$15,500
Telephones	\$ 2,500
Wiring, cabling, physical plant alterations	\$20,000
Photocopier/fax machine	\$21,000
Start-up services and supplies	\$23,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>